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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR KPAO OPRC PTER CI

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA

On July 12, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried an editorial entitled "Rapprochement with the United States." Quote:

"The disposition of the U.S. Congress seems to concur with a change in the White House, which has given numerous signs of wanting to strengthen and expand its diplomatic agenda with Latin America. Such a rapprochement could have a positive effect on both parties. An interesting example of this was the recent meeting between Nicholas Burns and Chilean Minister of Energy Tokman. Burns said his country would cooperate if Chile decides to turn to nuclear energy. It's easy to see that not so long ago we could hardly have imagined such a stance."

KELLY